



# Welcome to writing day!

Entrance task: Write a great question for a geography thematic essay.

Today: Thematic essay format

Homework: Last night to study for quest



Sep 11-5:08 PM

## Thematic Essay Format

**Introduction:** This should include the historical context and a clear thesis statement that addresses the question



**Body paragraphs** – begin with a strong topic sentence. Three supportive paragraphs are usually sufficient, but this number may vary.



**Conclusion** – Summarizes and defends your position as stated in the introduction.

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## Thematic Essay Example

- **Question:** Explain the ways in which US History differs from Global History II.

*What are the steps to answering this question?*

Sep 18-8:31 PM

**Question:** Explain the ways in which one course differs from the other.

- Step 1: Brainstorm a list a differences
- Step 2: Select 2-3 of the most significant differences
- Step 3: Write an introduction that includes the historical context and a thesis statement that tells what the essay will address
- Step 4: Each body paragraph will address one of the differences and will begin with a comprehensive topic sentence.
- Step 5: Write a conclusion that summarizes the essence of the essay.

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## Sample introduction

US History is a Social Studies course offered at Vestal High School normally taken the year after Global II. As a junior-level course, it is considerably different in format and design than a global course. Two specific ways in which this course differs from Global History II include more an emphasis on the USA rather than the world, and a shorter time span on which to focus in the US course.

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## US Thematic Essay Example

- **Question:** Explain the ways in which US History differs from Global History II.
- Step 4: Each body paragraph will address one of the 3 differences and will begin with a comprehensive **topic sentence**

*One way in which the two courses differ is that the focus in US History is on the US rather than the entire world, as in Global History.*

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## US History conclusion example

*As expected, there are many differences between US History and Global II. US History is a junior-level course, and the focus is more directly on the United States. In addition the type of homework assignments are less cumbersome and more succinct than in Global, and the time period is much less than Global. Overall, US History ROCKS!*

- Question: Explain the ways in which US History differs from Global History II.
- Step 5: Write a conclusion that summarizes the essence of the essay.

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Writing practice: Explain one way in which mountains, rivers, or plains have affected have either aided or hindered the political, social or economic development of the United States. Be specific.

Sep 9-9:50 AM

Intro: Historical context info about geography in general.

*Geography has a great influence on the development of a nation or region, sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse. One example of a benefit of river systems for the US is the Mississippi River, which has been used extensively for trade.*

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Thesis:

*Geography has a great influence on the development of a nation or region, sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse. One example of a benefit of river systems for the US is the Mississippi River, which has been used extensively for trade.*

Sep 9-9:50 AM

Topic sentence for body paragraph:

*The Mississippi River, which empties into the Gulf of Mexico, has had a positive economic benefit because it is a major shipping route for goods from the midwest. Because of this river, goods produced on the Great and Central Plains can be transported easily to the port in New Orleans and shipped around the world.*

Sep 9-9:50 AM

### Conclusion

*The United States is fortunate to have a river system that enables goods to be shipped to large markets. Rivers such as the Mississippi River, the Missouri River, and the Hudson River are all examples of rivers that have economically benefitted the United States economically.*

Sep 9-9:50 AM



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